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Letter dated 7 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from Najib Ghadbian, Special Representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces to the United Nations, dated 6 March 2016 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex to all members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

I write to express my grave concern that the Syrian regime and its allies are flagrantly attacking the Syrian city of Darayya, in a bare-faced violation of the truce endorsed by the Security Council.

Since the outset of the revolution, the regime has inflicted inordinate violence on Darayya. All peaceful political activists have been affected; Ghiyath Matar is one example among so many other demonstrators.

The regime quickly resorted to using extreme military force against the peaceful revolution. It has rained down large quantities of barrel bombs, ground-to-ground missiles, bombs and shells on the city. It has also used other means of destruction and indiscriminate mass murder, including a protracted siege, displacement and starvation. Its reason for doing so is that the city occupies a crucial location near the regime's military and security infrastructure.

Once the Syrian people took up arms to defend itself from indiscriminate killings and mass destruction, the residents of Darayya soon formed their own units. They have not allowed any individuals or groups from outside the city to join those moderate units. This is perhaps one reason why they have been able to stand firm for so long, while the regime endeavoured to pierce their ranks and defeat them, using violence and crime in an attempt to break them, displace them occupy their land. The Russian air force's military operations have exacerbated the suffering of the people of Darayya. Its heavy bombings have burned or destroyed much of what was left of the city, and have cut it off from the neighbouring town of Mu'addamiyah as a first step towards a multi-pronged assault. However, the regime has failed to break through, and its schemes have come to naught.

For all of those reasons, the regime and its military backers have made it clear that Darayya will be excepted from the truce that began at 12 a.m. on 27 February 2016, and that military operations against the city will continue until it has been taken and its remaining inhabitants killed or driven out. All of this is being done under the contrived excuse that Islamic State and Nusrah Front fighters are present in the city.

The National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces assures the Security Council that there are no fighters from Islamic State or the Nusrah Front in Darayya; indeed, there are no fighters from outside the city. The continued bombardment of the city is a violation of the truce agreed between the United States and the Russian Federation, a truce that the combatant units have agreed to respect. By bombarding and attempting to seize the city, the regime has violated the truce and, in particular, the provision that prevents all parties from attempting to advance to new positions or improve their military standing at the expense of the other parties.

The National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces urges the Security Council to adopt a statement, to be annexed to Security Council resolution 2268 (2016), making it clear that any attempt on the part of the regime to advance on Darayya, or to bombard it from the air or by any other means, shall constitute a violation of the truce and shall be met with the strongest measures.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution
and Opposition Forces to the United Nations